

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application.

The specification is objected to because of informalities. Applicant amends the specification and abstract to remove any ambiguities as shown in the Substitute Specification and separate redline version, which has been included for the Examiner's convenience.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Doi et al. (4,969,355).

Analysis

Claims 1 and 10 are the only claims in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to these independent claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a lateral force measuring device for a wheel. It includes a rotator axially installed with a universal function for moving in an axial direction and is dependently rotated by rotation of a pressed wheel. A load-measuring device measures the moving load for the axial direction of the rotator.

Doi is also directed to a tire measuring device. However, Doi discloses a device wherein a motor M drives the drum D which then drives the wheel T. Thus, Doi is directed to a rotator which is independently rotated from the wheel. In other words, while the rotator causes the wheel to rotate in each of the embodiments in Doi, the present invention utilizes a rotator that is dependently rotated by rotation of the wheel. Moreover, the load-measuring devices measures the moving load at the tire (see LC1 in Fig. 5 of Doi) rather than at the rotator.

As discussed on page 11 of the specification, the present invention utilizes a roller that is dependently rotated. If the roller is an independent driving element (as in Doi), a moving load

occurs insufficiently because resistance force is increased due to the driving torque.

Consequently, a lateral force of the wheel can not be accurately measured. On the other hand, if the roller is dependently rotated (as in the present invention), very little resistance occurs in the roller.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is distinguishable from Doi.

Claim 10 is patentable for similar reasons to claim 1. Namely, the claimed invention is directed to a rotator that is dependently rotated by rotation of a wheel. The moving load of the rotator is thus measured.

Since Doi is directed to a drum D that is driven by a motor, so that the drum drives the tire, and the measuring device measures the load of the tire rather than the drum, Doi fails to disclose the invention according to claim 10.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 10, by virtue of their dependency therefrom. Moreover, the dependent claims are patentable due to their own recitations contained therein.

For example, claims 3 and 4 are directed to a dog that is relatively attached to the rotator. While the Examiner asserts that the drum support member 32 is a dog, this drum support member does not provide a moving load that is measured by a load sensor. Thus, the drum support member 32 is not a dog as in the claimed invention.

Still further, claims 5-8 are patentable because Doi fails to disclose a wheel-driving device to rotate the wheel. Instead, Doi discloses that the drum D rotates the wheel; the alleged

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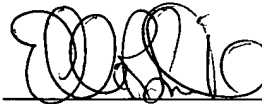
wheel-driving device 4 is actually a movable member for rotatably supporting the tire T and is slidable along the axis of the tire. Thus, claims 5-8 are patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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